

# Abstract

A transaction managing portion 2, a copyright owner 3 of digital data, a user 4 of digital data, and a transaction intermediary 5 who intermediates transactions are connected through a communication network using the Internet. The transaction managing portion 2 stores digital data, encryption key data, chronological change of the circulation number of the encryption key data, chronological change of the number of transactions, identification information of the transaction intermediary 5 and the user 4, and so forth. In addition, the transaction managing portion 2 decides whether or not transactions are concluded corresponding to the number of demanded digital data and the number of supplied digital data supplied through the communication network, identification information and asset information of people concerned with the transactions, identification of encryption key data, and so forth and performs data distributing and charging processes and so forth. Moreover, the transaction managing portion 2 manages transaction data of encryption key data such as the circulation number thereof, the number of concluded transactions thereof, and the transaction prices thereof and publicizes the transaction data on the network.